

# The Rise and Fall of the Louisiana Lottery

BY W. L. DITTO.

In the year 1868 the author of this article was a member of the legislature of Louisiana. It was composed of the very flower of the state, all white and all democrats, save three republican members. I might mention such men as Eastis, Jonas, Gray, McEnery, McConnell, etc.

This much is written to counteract entirely what Col. Alexander McClure wrote in the Times-Union when he said that this legislature was composed of the "black and tan" of the state. The fact is, the colonel did not have the facts at his command, for the "black and tan" came in afterwards, and was a part of the reconstruction legacy to the state of Louisiana.

There appeared at this time upon the scene a man by the name of Charles Howard, representing the Baltimore Lottery company, who was every day conspicuous in evidence and talked lottery to the members. He advertised also extensively in the newspapers of the state. It was not long before we heard of a proposition to establish a lottery. At this time the Havana lottery had the swing, and its agent, Mr. Sambola, was a member of the legislature, and he and Howard came very near having a "scrap." Howard offered fifty thousand dollars a year as a bonus to a charity hospital for a period of three or five years. After some considerable time and lobbying the bill was passed by a small majority.

Money was scarce and the state had to keep up the hospital. Things thus rolled along. Howard erected a fine building and became rich. He had a fine stable of thoroughbred horses and other accessories that belong to wealth.

At the expiration of the charter the lottery advocates succeeded in engraving the bill into the new constitution of the state with an extension of twenty years. After the expiration of the twenty years Gov. Josiah Nichols was the governor for the second time.

The lottery men offered the state through its legislature, two and a

quarter million dollars, payable annually, for an extension of ten years. By the use of large sums of money the legislature passed the bill by a small majority granting the extension. Then it was referred to that grand old patriot and hero, Governor Nichols, for his signature. The advocates of the measure had assisted with the use of considerable money in the re-election of Governor Nichols, and confidently counted upon his signing the bill. He had lost an arm and a leg in the Confederate army, and in returning the bill to the legislature without his signature, he said: "I will not disgrace the arm I lost in the defense of my country by signing with the other this iniquitous measure. I return it without my signature."

Governor Nichols could have had a million dollars for his official signature. The legislature failed to pass the bill over the governor's veto, and it fell, and "great was the fall thereof."

Thus this hydra-headed monster was throttled, and the state of Louisiana saved from moral ruin and disgrace by the heroic action of Governor Nichols, who stands out today as one of the great heroes of modern times.

[NOTE.—Charles Howard's health failing him, he removed to New York and bought a palatial home on the Hudson river. Riding along the river bank one day, his horse shied and threw him against a tree and he was killed. Before his death Howard had promised the city of New Orleans five thousand dollars to purchase a city library. As no mention of this gift appeared in his will, the city thought they had lost it. But he had a beautiful daughter—Lizzie Howard—who was engaged to marry Mayor Carter Harrison, of Chicago, (who was unfortunately killed) who wrote to the mayor and board of aldermen of New Orleans: "Whatever my father promised, his children will carry out," and enclosed a check for the full amount.]

### JUDGE JOSEPH H. BELL.

Mr. Joseph H. Bell received a telegram Saturday afternoon from his sister, Miss Jefferson Bell, who is at Tallahassee, congratulating him upon his appointment by the governor to the office of judge of the county court for this county.

The telegram stated that the commission had been duly signed and sealed and was on its way to Ocala.

Mr. Bell is a native of this city and his parents and grandparents were all residents here and were pioneers to the county.

Mr. Bell is an excellent young man, ambitious and of splendid character and attainments. He read law in the office with Mr. O. T. Green and later on attended lectures at the University of Virginia and was admitted to the bar here several years ago.

Mr. Bell was receiving the congratulations of his friends all the afternoon. We believe that he will make a capable and acceptable official and we extend to him our very cordial congratulations.

The Ocala Banner wonders why there are so many horrible murders. The explanation is easy. When a man has murder in his heart, he knows he has at least four chances to escape punishment for the crime. These are: he may not be detected; if detected, he may not be convicted; if convicted, the supreme court may interpose; all these failing, he has an appeal to the pardoning board. And there is a Jacksonville justice who boasts that he has never yet failed to secure a pardon or a commutation of sentence from the pardoning board.—Punta Gorda Herald.

What Governor Vardaman said to Governor Blanchard is in striking contrast to what the governor of North Carolina said to the governor of South Carolina.

### Panama Canal Big Humbug.

J. D. Youman's of Sioux City, Ia., in an interview with an Associated Press reporter, July 12, speaks very discouragingly and disastrously about the Panama canal. He thinks that it will never be, and was never intended to be, completed. He says:

"Panama is no place for anyone to stay. Before I was moved off the Interstate Commerce Commission it was intimated to me that I would be a valuable man in Panama. No Panama for me—not for \$100 a minute. I didn't come to this world to die; I came to live.

"The Panama canal is the biggest humbug of the age. I have no hesitation in saying that, in my opinion, there will never be a canal built there. No important American engineer who was not paid for it ever hazarded the opinion that there would be a canal there. The last monthly report of the work done shows that it will take 110 years to finish it. The weeds grow in one end faster than they can carry the dirt out of the other.

"No engineer has ever found a rock or clay bed in that celebrated Cutbra cut, where the United States has done most of its work. There has been a cut of 350 feet there and thirty inches of rain falls in thirty hours down those banks. Does anyone suppose that the alluvial soil won't wash down in there to make a mud canal too thick for a government dredge-bust to keep afloat in?"

"The Nicaragua route was feasible and for that reason was abandoned. I was a member of a syndicate prepared to build a canal for \$120,000,000 which would have carried 27,000,000,000 tons of merchandise annually. We were prepared to do the work in four years. This looked too much like a canal and the great influences behind the present transcontinental transportation business suddenly ceased opposing the canal project and pushed the clamor over the Panama. The men who run our big railroads know what Panama is. By the Nicaragua route, as projected, a ship could leave New York harbor and arrive in San Francisco in 18 days. No freight train is now scheduled to go overland inside of 23 days. That's what struck the Nicaragua project. Red tape, civil service and yellow fever will do the rest.

"Do you suppose congress will go on putting up money for gravestones and quinine down there? I am glad I am not in it. Everybody down there wants to know what Wallace, or what the boss of the whole work is doing—live in New York and run it by proxy. Why should Shonts or Wallace be chosen to dig a canal anyway? They never did a piece of work in their lives of this sort, or anything calculated to equip them for doing it. Every man selected so far to do the work has been picked from a transcontinental railroad. Would you pick a competitor to build a competing business? They may be all right but none of it looks like a canal to me."

### A Warning to Mothers.

To much care cannot be used with small children during the hot weather of the summer months to guard against bowel troubles. As a rule it is only necessary to give the child a dose of castor oil to correct in any disorder of the bowels. Do not use any substitute but give the old-fashioned castor oil, and see that it is fresh, as rancid oil, nauseates and has a tendency to gripe. If this does not check the bowels give Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy and then a dose of castor oil, and the disease may be checked in its incipency and all danger avoided. The castor oil and this remedy should be procured at once and kept ready for instant use as soon as the first indication of any bowel trouble appears. This is the most successful treatment known and may be relied upon with implicit confidence even in cases of cholera infantum. For sale by All Druggists.

Mr. E. B. Dickerson, formerly at the head of the commercial department of the University of Florida, has gone back to his old home in Tampa, and has entered the practice of law, forming a business co-partnership with Colonel Lunsford. Mr. Dickerson was formerly a Marion county boy, and his many friends here hope he will make a success at the practice of law as he has at everything else he has undertaken.

### God is Good to Us.

In spite of the things that go wrong, God is mighty good to this country. Never before in the history of this land has nature opened her cornucopia more generously and poured out plenty.

The west has a record-breaker wheat crop that is taxing her labor capacity to the fullest to harvest. And it takes less of it to make a barrel of flour than in previous years.

The south has a paying cotton crop coming on, and the growers are talking 10 cent cotton and prosperity.

The corn crop of the country promises to be 300,000,000 bushels larger than ever before. The whole indicated corn crop, at present prices, means something like \$1,640,000,000 to the farmers.

There are indicated bumper crops of oats, rye, flax, barley, tobacco and potatoes—worth hundreds of millions. The farmer is not alone in being blessed.

Throughout the land, from the lakes to the gulf and from sea to sea, the factories are humming with life.

There are no strikes of consequence and no prospect of any.

The steel industry is many months behind its orders.

Every shipbuilding plant and car shop is worked to its fullest capacity.

In the great arteries of commerce the ships and freights trains are carrying all they can.

The barometers of business, the retail stores, are registering their finest records.

The bank report show a steady increase in savings.

Every city of enterprise has its homebuildings boom.

Perhaps never before, anywhere in the world, did an entire people live better than do the people of this country today.

There is money to spare in pleasure. New York alone is sending \$60,000,000 on its summer vacations. Before the season ends 200,000 Americans will have sailed for Europe. In Philadelphia 85,000 people in a single week attended six ball games.

All goes well in this land of the free! —Atlanta Journal.

### Jacksonville's Enterprises

Of the total number of companies granted charters by Florida in the past fiscal year, 72 have established headquarters in Jacksonville. These represent a capital of \$8,113,000, which does not include the capital stock of \$1,250,000 of the Naval Stores Export Co., which maintains its chief office at Jacksonville, but was not organized under the laws of Florida. Companies organized under the laws of other states, but with headquarters at Jacksonville, will bring the capital stock represented up to an aggregate of more than \$10,000,000.—Manufacturers' Record.

### Of Household Interest.

Housecleaning is not the pleasantest of the housekeeper's tasks, but none the less necessary on that account. In the September Delineator Isabel Gordon Curtis offers in her series, "The Making of a Housewife" some suggestions that will tend to lighten the labor and lessen the disagreeableness of this household duty. Other items of domestic interest in the same number are illustrated cookery and a variety of recipes under the topics, "Delicious Cream Jellies," "Decorative Color Salads," and "The Potato." In addition, Alice M. Kellogg explains, "How to Select Finishing Hardware" and Ward MacLeod writes on "Growing Bulbs Indoors."

The Weekly News printed at DeLand says that blind tigers are not blind in Volusia county. That they are run wide open. It further says: "Our people who wish the world to know that liquor has been voted out for lo, these many years, don't give a rap whether liquor is sold or not. We want to make a great hullabaloo about our prohibition and have liquor at the same time. We want to advertise to the world how dry, dry, dry we are and be able to get our drinks just around the corner, and we get 'em."

Brooksville's new bank was opened Thursday morning with Cashier W. Z. Law, in charge.

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| Hanne's "44" Rye         | 3.75 5.00 9.50        |  | Victoria Rye, Social Drops Rye, Medical quality |                                   | LEWIS ST. LOUIS BEER.          |
| Special Drops            | 4.50 6.50 12.00       |  | Palstaff  |                                   | Extra Pale                     |
| Malt Whiskey             | 3.75 5.00 9.50        |  | Standard  |                                   | Malt, extra dark               |
| Peach Brandy             | 3.75 5.00 9.50        |  | Colony Imported                                 |                                   | Pure A1                        |
| Holland Gin              | 2.90 4.25 7.50        |  | Guinness Stout, pils                            |                                   |                                |
| Geneva Gin               | 3.75 5.00 9.50        |  |   |                                   |                                |
| North Carolina Corn      | 2.65 4.00 7.50        |  |   |                                   |                                |
| Mountain Corn            | 3.75 5.00 9.50        |  |   |                                   |                                |
| Medford Rum              | 2.00 4.25 7.50        |  |   |                                   |                                |
| Medford Rum              | 3.75 5.00 9.50        |  |   |                                   |                                |
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